



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNTY COUNCIL MOVES TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

The County Council today unanimously approved a \$695,000 grant to aid outpatient mental health clinics.

"The plight of the providers of mental health services to our most vulnerable citizens is desperate," said Council President Blair Ewing. "If we don't help, some or all of them will go out of business.

"This funding will help to address the ongoing crisis in the public mental health system. The State of Maryland's system has proven inadequate to meet the needs of the low-income population because clinics are not reimbursed enough to serve this group and stay in business."

Under the Council's plan, each clinic will get a base grant of \$20,000. The remaining funds will be distributed according to the number of publicly supported patients the clinic served at least once per quarter. Clinics will have to report to the county the results of quarterly census.

Earlier this year, the Council approved \$175,000 in grants to mental health clinics.

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